



# Administrative Office of the Courts

P.O. Box 4820, Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781 TTY: (207) 822-0701

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Mary Ann Lynch  
Director of Court Information  
P.O. Box 4820  
Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 592-5940  
mary.ann.lynch@maine.gov

## Supreme Judicial Court Recognizes Penobscot, Piscataquis and Hancock County Attorneys For Legal Aid to the Elderly and the Needy

Bangor, Maine –In a recognition ceremony at the Penobscot Judicial Center, today in Bangor, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley announced the names of local Maine lawyers who qualified for the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, for donating their time and talent to Maine people who cannot afford lawyers.

The Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program recognizes attorneys who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono legal representation to Mainers in a year. Attorneys who meet this milestone annually are awarded Katahdin Counsel recognition. This year, the following lawyers in Penobscot, Hancock, and Piscataquis County qualified for recognition:

Eric Columber and Heather Staples from Hancock County; Deborah Meier Carr of Piscataquis County; and the following lawyers from Penobscot County: Zachary Brandmeir, Kerry Clark Jordan, Jane S.E. Clayton, Angela Farrell, Patricia Locke, Cynthia Mehnert, Eric M. Mehnert, Martha Novy-Broderick, Logan Perkins, Jane Skelton, Joy A. Trueworthy, and Roberta Winchell.

Chief Justice Saufley said, “There is a crisis today in courts across the country, and Maine is no different. The law can be complex, and stressful for those caught up in legal issues. Understanding and navigating the legal system without professional help can be even more difficult and more stressful. Access to lawyers in civil cases is crucial to making equal justice a reality for all. The lawyers that we are recognizing in this room have done much to improve the lives of Mainers in need. Across the State, the equivalent of over \$2 million in legal services has been provided to low-income Mainers by Maine’s generous lawyers.”

The Chief Justice said, “Two years ago, the Supreme Judicial Court created the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program to challenge and recognize Maine lawyers who have responded to this need. We are pleased and honored by the enthusiastic response of the Katahdin Counsel lawyers in Piscataquis, Penobscot and Hancock Counties. Each lawyer here today donated a minimum of 50 hours of their time, and some much more than 50 hours. They each donated more than one full week of work to assist their fellow citizens who cannot afford legal counsel. Of course, I would be remiss if I also did not recognize the many lawyers who have donated their time, perhaps less than 50 hours, but a valuable contribution nonetheless

